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Wood

In Reply Refer To:
W3815(170)

Memorandum

To: Legislative Counsel
From: Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
Subject: Canaveral National Seashore - Wilderness

REC-8 1982
(88) G. Ray Arnett

Public Law 93-626 of January 3, 1975, which established Canaveral National Seashore, required that within three years of its enactment the Secretary shall review the area within the seashore and report to the President his recommendations as to the suitability or unsuitability of any area within the seashore for preservation as wilderness.

The National Park Service, with my approval, has recommended that there be no wilderness designation at this time at Canaveral National Seashore, Florida.

A copy of the Wilderness Recommendation of September 1981 for Canaveral National Seashore is attached. We are also attaching draft letters for transmittal of this report from the Secretary to the President and from the President to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and President of the United States Senate.

Attachments

- bcc:
- FW CL SOL FWS
- Secretary's RF(2) Secretary Files
- Regional Director, SERO(2))
- Director, DSC) each w/c draft letters
- 001-RF)
- 001-Lambe)
- 001-Wood)
- 001-Whitehead)
- ~~001~~-Suspense)
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- 190)
- 130)

FNP:TGWood:mrp:3/3/82:x35760

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Section 8 of Public Law 93-626 of January 3, 1975, which established Canaveral National Seashore, the Secretary of the Interior is required within three years of its enactment to review the area within the seashore and report to the President his recommendations as to the suitability or unsuitability of any area within the seashore for preservation as wilderness, and any designation of any such areas as a wilderness shall be accomplished in accordance with the Wilderness Act. Having reviewed Canaveral National Seashore, we conclude that there should be no wilderness designation at this time.

The jurisdiction by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of 69 percent of the seashore, the majority of which is under management of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is legislatively authorized and covered by a mandated agreement to assure use of the lands in a manner consistent with the needs of the space and defense programs. Twenty-seven percent of the seashore is owned by the State of Florida and, by legislation, can only be acquired by donation. This donation, when made, is expected to contain limitations providing for the continuation of mosquito control activities. Due to these limitations, the National Park Service cannot ensure that management of the seashore would be consistent with wilderness designation. Should the jurisdictional limitations decrease or mosquito control measures compatible with a wilderness designation be developed, a reassessment of wilderness suitability would be appropriate.

Of the 21 oral statements presented at the public hearings, 3 supported a no-wilderness finding while 5 did not address the issue. Two statements called for a wilderness designation of an unspecified amount of land and/or water. The remaining 7 statements were of a slightly different nature and indicated an understanding of the reasons why the National Park Service felt it could not recommend a wilderness designation. None of the comments received from Federal agencies addressed wilderness. Three of the responses from State and local governmental agencies supported a wilderness designation as did 5 written responses from private organizations.

The Canaveral National Seashore encompasses 57,627.07 acres on Florida's central Atlantic Coast. This includes 24 miles of beach backed by the Mosquito Lagoon and some acreage on the mainland. The seashore was established by Public Law 93-626 to preserve and protect the natural values of the area and provide for public outdoor recreation of the same. Despite its alterations such as dikes, impoundments, drainage ditches, and unpaved roads, Canaveral National Seashore is one of the least disturbed coastal segments along the nation's subtropical shoreline. It is also one of the very last sections of undeveloped beachfront in the State of Florida.

The predominant natural resources of the seashore are the beaches and dunes, the high quality water of Mosquito Lagoon, a State designated aquatic preserve, the overlapping of subtropical and temperate vegetational types and the wide variety of wildlife species, including 12 federally listed endangered or threatened species. Cultural resources are also abundant and

varied in the seashore. Aboriginal man is represented by mounds and middens; Turtle Mound, the best known, is on the National Register of Historic Places. The first Florida citrus plantation, Confederate salt works, Haulover Canal, the small town of Eldora and the original route of the Intracoastal Waterway represent historical man.

A more modern example of man's changes is the Kennedy Space Center development immediately south of the seashore. Other, less dramatic changes are the modern Intracoastal Waterway and a series of dikes, ditches and impoundments used for mosquito control and management of wildlife habitat.

In accordance with the terms of the Wilderness Act, two public hearings were held at New Smyrna Beach, Florida, on July 9, 1979, and at Titusville, Florida, on July 10, 1979. A summary of the hearing record and written expressions received is contained in the enclosed brochure. Complete records have been compiled and are available for inspection by the public.

Respectfully,

SECRETARY

Enclosures

bcc:

FW CL SOL FWS
Secretary's RF(2) Secretarys Files
Regional Director, SERO(2)
Director, DSC
001-RF
170-Lambe
170-Wood
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BASIC RETAINED IN 170

Honorable George Bush
President of the Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President:

Section 8 of Public Law 93-626 of January 3, 1975, established Canaveral National Seashore and required that the Secretary of the Interior within three years review the area within the seashore and report to the President his recommendations as to the suitability or unsuitability of any area within the seashore for preservation as wilderness. Any designation of any such areas as wilderness is to be accomplished by the Congress pursuant to the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964. Enclosed is a recommendation from the Secretary of the Interior that no wilderness be designated for Canaveral National Seashore. I concur in this recommendation.

Sincerely,

President

Enclosure

Identical Letter sent to:

Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Speaker of the House of
Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

bcc:

FW CL SOL FWS
Secretary's RF(2) Secretary Files
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